

Civil Disobedience: Group Activity

Directions: Fill out the section that you group has before we begin sharing as a class. Use your guiding questions to help you understand your paragraph and teach it to the class. When you teach to the class, you should provide a brief summary of your paragraph and explain how it supports the central idea that one should prioritize one's conscience over the government and the law.

<p>“All men recognize the right of a revolution...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoreau mentions the right to to revolution. Can you think of a time when the people revolted against the government? Why did they?• Thoreau states, "At any rate, it is a great evil to make a stir about it" - What evil is he talking about?• In this paragraph, Thoreau mentions his reasoning for why the people should revolt against the government. What reasons does he give?
<p>“Paley, a common authority...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paley says we should only revolt in what situations?• How does Thoreau present an argument against Paley?• How does Thoreau characterize the differences between himself and Paley using the example of a drowning man?
<p>“Practically speaking...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What type of traditional Greek rhetoric (ethos, pathos, logos) is used in the first sentence of this paragraph? What does Thoreau say about merchants and farmers?• What does Thoreau mean by "but they do nothing in earnest with effect?"• What type of person does Thoreau criticize in this paragraph?

<p>“All voting is a sort of gaming...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoreau brings up the idea of "the majority" again here. How does this relate to his problems with voting? • Why does he say, "even voting for the right is doing nothing for it?" • Why does Thoreau liken the voters to slaves in the end of the paragraph?
<p>“I hear of a convention ...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoreau brings up independent voters. Based on what he says in this paragraph, do you think he is for or against the 2-party system? Why? • What does he mean by "has a bone in his back which you cannot pass your hand through?" How is he using this to criticize others? • What comments is he making on the majority of Americans at this time?
<p>“It is not a man’s duty...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Thoreau mean by "wash his hands of it?" Do you agree or disagree with Thoreau's philosophy here? • Thoreau points out hypocrisy in this paragraph. Who is he referring to? Why? • Thoreau calls indifference a sin. Why do you think he does this?
<p>“The broadest and most prevalent ...”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What problems does Thoreau present in regards to patriotism? • What does he say about people who support the government even when they take issue with it?